

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Francis J. Principe for his dedication to his community and his industry.

TRIBUTE TO MICKEY LELAND

SPEECH OF

HON. GUS YATRON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 1989

Mr. YATRON. Mr. Speaker, so much has been said and written about the tragic death of our friend and colleague, MICKEY LELAND. Yet, words cannot describe the profound impact that MICKEY had on so many persons throughout the world.

As a Congressman, he was a distinguished leader committed to improving the quality of life for all peoples the world over. At home, he was a loving husband and father. As a friend, he inspired us with his words and actions.

Mr. Speaker, the world will soon forget the words we have spoken in memory of MICKEY LELAND, but it will long remember the man to whom we pay tribute. His presence will be dearly missed, but his legacy will abide in us forever.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1989

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1989

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, today I join with Congressman MATTHEW J. RINALDO in introducing legislation to authorize appropriations for activities of the Federal Communications Commission. The bill authorizes \$109,831,000 for fiscal year 1990 and \$117,831,000 for fiscal year 1991, together with such sums as may be necessary for increases resulting from adjustments in salary, pay, retirement, other employee benefits required by law, and other nondiscretionary costs, for each of the fiscal years 1990 and 1991.

Our Nation is in the midst of a communications revolution. The rapid emergence of telecommunications technologies is spawning exciting, new communications products and services and stimulating the development of domestic and international market opportunities. Innovations like HDTV, PCTV, artificial intelligence and supercomputers are blurring the technical and regulatory lines between communications and computers. Fiber optic cable soon will be bringing integrated voice, video, and data services to Nation's businesses, institutions, and homes. This revolution will affect the way we live, do business, and to a great extent determine America's position the world economy.

In this environment, the role of the FCC is critical to promoting a competitive market place, providing timely and effective regulation, and encouraging the continued development of efficient, innovative communications facilities and services. This independent agency must have the resources needed to implement congressional policies, to regulate the dynamic, burgeoning telecommunications

industry and to carry out its statutory responsibilities to promote the public interest.

Over the past 2 years, however, FCC's workload has increased, while its staff and resources have declined. Last year, for example, FCC had to absorb various pay and health benefit cost increases that amounted to roughly 5 percent of its budget, which equals the level of discretionary funds for equipment, supplies, maintenance, printing, travel, and so forth. When 80 percent of the Commission's appropriation is committed to employee salaries and benefits, and totally nondiscretionary expenses such as rental of office space consume another 15 percent, the 5 percent in discretionary funding is significant.

To absorb the fiscal year 1989 cost increases I noted, the Commission had to reduce its full-time, permanent employee staff by 120. Budget and staff reductions from fiscal year 1988 had already increased application processing times; delayed staff productivity initiatives; and delayed technical improvements needed to monitor new technologies, identify and eliminate interference, and respond to complaints. As a consequence of the fiscal year 1989 staff reductions, the Commission anticipates: Additional increases in the time required to act on new applications; delays in the introduction of new services; increased complaints of interference; and further reduced enforcement activities.

The funds authorized for appropriation in this bill provide the Commission with the resources needed to restore a portion of its staff, 40; increase staff productivity through enhanced automation; purchase new technical equipment to replace obsolete and worn-out equipment used in the field operations and engineering and technology activities; and undertake other program improvements. The funds authorized are consistent with the Commission's needs and the needs of our Government in maximizing the benefits the public derives from our Nation's communications facilities and services. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

A TRADITION OF PROUD SERVICE

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1989

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to a group of individuals in my district that have every right to be very proud. On September 22, 1989, the Port Trevorton Volunteer Fire Company, in Port Trevorton, PA, will be celebrating its 40th anniversary. The date marks four decades of exceptional service and compassion.

The fire company was established after a disastrous fire in Port Trevorton on August 9, 1949. The fire that summer day, caused by spontaneous combustion, destroyed three homes, Herrold's General Store, and an abandoned church. But the citizens of Port Trevorton realized that preparedness was necessary to protect their town in the future.

One month after the fire, the new volunteer company purchased its first fire truck from the New Bloomfield Fire Company for \$1,800. It

was a used, but completely equipped pumper. Public donations paid for the truck and volunteers set up shop in a tiny restaurant named Fred's Place. Later, the Port Trevorton Elementary School was converted for use as a firehouse.

In 1961, the fire company bought a new truck for \$13,700. Seven years later, another one was added at a cost of \$18,000.

A bid has recently been let to purchase a custom-built engine/pumper truck with a 1,250 gallon water tank. The approximate cost is \$143,000.

By 1982, the Port Trevorton Volunteer Fire Company had built a new firehouse that even included a social room. Because the community joined together to raise money and help with construction, there was no debt incurred for this \$60,000 project.

Important to the fire company and the community is the ladies auxiliary, established in 1951. The purpose of the auxiliary is to aid and support the fire company in its various endeavors. Over the years, this vital organization has proven to be a stalwart in the Port Trevorton community. In 1979, the first emergency medical technicians became affiliated with the fire company. These skilled individuals also provide essential services to the citizens of Port Trevorton.

Today, 40 years after its founding, the volunteer fire company is stronger and more cohesive than ever. It continually strives to improve services, and citizens look forward to many more decades of the selflessness and courage demonstrated by volunteers since the company's inception. At this point, supporters are involved in raising funds for a new fire truck. Whereas that first truck in 1949 cost just short of \$2,000, the company expects to incur a debt of \$90,000 in order to purchase a vehicle in 1989.

But the Port Trevorton Volunteer Fire Company will prevail over this temporary obstacle as it has many throughout the past 40 years. As we celebrate the anniversary of this organization, we celebrate the resilience, courage, and generosity of spirit that represents the best qualities that America offers.

DO LONGER JAIL SENTENCES REDUCE CRIME?

HON. DAVID E. SKAGGS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 13, 1989

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker. Over the weekend, reports were published about the unprecedented increase in prison population during the first half of the year. The number of inmates went up over 7 percent in 6 months—a rate which would double the prison population in 5 years if sustained. The surge in incarceration primarily reflects the recent legislative and judicial movement toward longer sentences. With this kind of dramatic development, it makes sense to check that we're accomplishing what we intended and that it's worth the price. And the price is certainly significant, at \$25,000 per inmate per year on the average.

An article in the September 10, 1989, Washington Post by Michael Gottfredson and Travis Hirschi is a particularly concise and